

*Motion for Concurrence in Report*

attention. If this practice is to be allowed in the future, Your Honour should make it known.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank hon. members for their learned and useful contributions to the debate during the last hour or so. All hon. members who have spoken have pointed out that this is a very important matter. The decision which the Chair is called upon to take is, of course, an important one.

As hon. members may have guessed, this matter has been under consideration for some days and it is as a result of this consideration that the Chair has come to at least the temporary conclusion that the motion of the hon. member for Athabasca should be placed where it has been placed on the order paper, that is, under Motions.

I doubt whether I can agree with the suggestion of the hon. member for Edmonton West that the raising of this matter as a point of order at this time is in any way a reflection on the Chair. I must say I cannot agree. If the proposed motion had been placed under private members' notices of motions, I assume the honourable and learned member for Peace River would have raised a point of order seeking to have it upgraded to where it is placed at the present time. I would think the intervention of the President of the Privy Council is quite in order in the sense that I fully expected that the points he has made would be made, and that the Chair would then be placed in the position of having to review the matter further.

The only two precedents which have been quoted in the course of the debate are those which go back to 1932 and 1947. It is of interest to note that in both instances a member of the House who was not the chairman of the committee concerned was allowed to make a motion of the type now standing in the name of the hon. member for Athabasca. In the absence of any precedent contrary to this situation in previous years it was felt by the Chair that the motion should be given the precedence which it has been granted on the order paper. I realized that it would be in order for the Chair to give the matter very serious consideration within the next 24 hours or so in order that a lucid, logical and understandable ruling might be made, because in a way this is a precedent setting situation—the two precedents which were referred to by the President of the Privy Council did not include a procedural discussion, so they are not finally binding on the Chair.

The direction which the Chair tends to take at the present time is obvious. It was as a result of lengthy consideration that the motion of the hon. member for Athabasca was placed where it is, and I would think this is the decision which should be reached. I shall not prejudice the matter, however. If hon. members will allow me to do so I will reflect further on the matter and give a ruling within the next 24 hours which I hope will be acceptable to the House.

There is a difficulty in the sense that if a decision were made tomorrow and if, perchance, the decision were favourable to the hon. member for Athabasca, he would be called upon to make his contribution—and perhaps subsequent contributions would be made to the debate—in conflict with the arrangement which has now been concluded to the effect that tomorrow would be an opposition day. I would not consider the hon. member's motion as an opposition day subject, but I would consider it to be a committee day, in a sense. It might be that discussions should be held between representatives of the parties to decide if, theoretically a decision were reached in the hon. member's favour, a debate on the motion might be postponed to a subsequent day in order to allow the House to devote itself entirely to the motion which stands on the order paper at the present time in the name of the hon. member for Mackenzie. This having been said, I will postpone a decision until tomorrow, if hon. members will allow me to do so.

• (3:10 p.m.)

**Mr. Baldwin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am sure there will be the usual willingness to co-operate, in consultation with the President of the Privy Council, as to an appropriate time when Your Honour's decision might be made.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I see you are learning.

**Mr. Baldwin:** What was that?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I said, I see you are learning.

**INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

MEASURE RESPECTING FURNISHING OF INFORMATION, LOANS AND INVESTMENTS, TRANSFERS OF SHARES, ETC.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (for the Minister of Finance)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-179, respecting investment companies.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.